

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 3, 4 and 13 are currently amended, and claim 2 is canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1 and 3-14 are pending, and claim 2 has been canceled.

The specification has been amended to conform the reference number for cam lever 36 to the same reference number in Fig. 1. The specification also has been amended to correct clerical errors.

Claim 13 has been amended to overcome the objection noted at page 3 of the office action.

Claims 1-10, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kamada, et al (US 2004/0142783). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the radially outer surface of the spline faces a radially inner surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis. Independent claim 13 has been amended to clarify that a spline has a root portion and a radially inner portion, wherein the root portion extends radially inwardly of the sprocket body and has a side wall facing in a rotational direction, and wherein the radially inner portion extends radially inwardly of the root portion and has a side wall facing in the rotational direction.

Kamada, et al discloses a sprocket (200) with a spline (224). However, spline (224) does not have a radially outer surface that faces a radially inner surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis of the sprocket as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, spline (224) does not have both a root portion and a radially inner portion with side walls that face in the rotational direction of the sprocket as recited in claim 13.

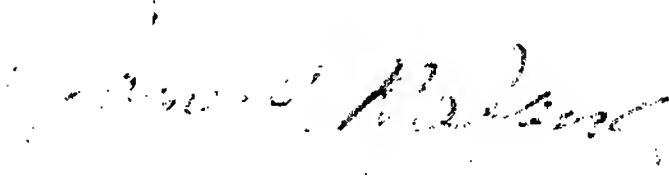
Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamada, et al. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed as a minimum for the reasons noted above.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

TAKAHIRO NAKANO, et al
Application No.: 10/711,326
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PATENT

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James A. Deland", is written over a faint, circular embossed seal. The seal contains text that is mostly illegible but appears to include "NOTARY PUBLIC" and "STATE OF CALIFORNIA".

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